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et al., ("Debtors"), and Debtors' bankruptcy estate as to Movant, and permitting Movant to proceed under applicable non-bankruptcy law to prosecute her personal injury claim against Debtors to its conclusion, but to enforce any award rendered or judgment entered against Debtor only against available insurance proceeds and for Rule 9011 sanctions as more fully set forth below.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Sections 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Sec. 157(b). Venue is proper in the Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Sections 1408 and 1409. The statutory predicate for the relief requested herein is section 362(d) of the Bankruptcy Code and Local Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001-11. This Court may order sanctions <u>sua sponte</u> pursuant to Rule 9011.
- 2. Movant is in pro per. Movant's counsel in her civil action, (see below) is Gary Rand & Suzanne E. Rand-Lewis, PLCS. Movant requests all notices be served on her in care of Gary Rand & Suzanne E. Rand-Lewis, PLCS, at 5590 Sepulveda Boulevard, Suite #330, Van Nuys, California 91411-2523. Movant also requests that the Court proceed without a hearing on this matter and waives oral argument.
 - 3. Movant's Certificate of Conference is filed concurrently herewith.

BACKGROUND

4. Movant has brought a civil action, YC059488 entitled "Brooke Alexis Love, a minor, by and through her Guardian ad Litem, Sharon Butler v. Olga Edgar Purington, General Motors Corporation, et al.", in the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Southwest District, [hereinafter referred to as "the State Court Action"], to recover for injuries and damages sustained by her when she was struck by a vehicle operated by Defendant, Olga Edgar Purington, a GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION's agent/employee while in the course and scope of employment and while driving a vehicle owned by Defendant, General Motors Corporation (hereinafter referred to as "GM"), at Hawthorne Boulevard and 164th Street in Lawndale, California on January 16, 2008. This is not a product liability claim relating to a GM product. GM is insured for this auto accident as stated below, through a "Business Auto" insurance policy (Exhibit "B").

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- 5. On June 9, 2009, Movant propounded discovery to Defendants including Debtor/Defendant, General Motors Corporation, and its employee/agent, Defendant, Olga Edgar Purington consisting of Form Interrogatories, Special Interrogatories and Request for Production of Documents. Said discovery has not been responded to by Defendant, General Motors Corporation due to the Bankruptcy Stay; however, said discovery has been responded to by GM agent/employee, Defendant, Olga Edgar Purington, wherein she verified she was covered under Co-Defendant, General Motors Corporation's \$300,000 Business Auto liability policy with excess coverage up to \$9,700,000 with National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, to whom Debtor/Defendant, General Motors Corporation had tendered its defense in this matter and which defense had been accepted. Although discovery was stayed as to Debtor/Defendant General Motors Corporation as stated above, the verified response provided by Defendant, Olga Edgar Purington and the Declaration page of the insurance policy provided (Exhibit "B") constitutes evidence of the business insurance coverage of Debtor/Defendant, General Motors Corporation. Said discovery also contains Defendant, Olga Edgar Purington's admission that she was at all times Defendant GM's agent and the accident occurred within the course and scope of her employment. Attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference is a copy of Defendant, Olga Edgar Purington's verified response to Form Interrogatories marked Exhibit "A". See response to No. 4.1 therein relative to said coverage.
- 6. Defendants have \$300,000 business automobile liability insurance limits for this automobile accident with excess coverage up to \$9,700,000 with National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh. Attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference is a true and correct copy of the Declaration page of Defendant's applicable insurance marked **Exhibit "B"**, showing the coverage by this insurer for which Defendant paid \$75,036.00 in premiums. Defendant's insurance is sufficient to compensate Movant for her severe injuries and damages.
- 7. There are no Cross-Complaints for Indemnity in the civil action. There are no other known claims against the \$300,000 business auto liability coverage or \$9,700,000 excess coverage.
 - 8. The Defendants in the case are General Motors Corporation's agent/employee, Olga

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Edgar Purington and Debtor/Defendant, General Motors Corporation. Defendants are both represented by the same counsel. Defendants' counsel is Dykema Gossett, LLP and bankruptcy counsel refused to stipulate to the relief herein on the contention that Defendant, GM is self insured. To date, bankruptcy counsel has not provided anything to support this claim.

9. On June 9, 2009 Defendants, Olga Edgar Purington and Debtor/Defendant, General Motors Corporation, advised Movant of the Bankruptcy Stay applying to Defendant/Debtor. General Motors Corporation. The State Court Action continues as to Defendant GM's agent/employee, Olga Edgar Purington.

ARGUMENT

Debtor's Available Liability Insurance Coverage.

10. Defendant, Olga Edgar Purington provided, during discovery, responses in the State Court Action stating she and Defendant, General Motors Corporation were insured for the accident under business auto insurance policies issued to Co-Defendant/Debtor, General Motors Corporation, through National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, for claims of the type asserted against Debtor in the State Court Action by Movant, with \$300,000 liability coverage and excess insurance coverage of \$9,700,000. (See Exhibit "B"). Although discovery was stayed as to Debtor/Defendant, General Motors Corporation as stated above, the response provided by Defendant, Olga Edgar Purington and the Declaration page of the business auto insurance policy provided indicates that coverage was under the name of Debtor/Defendant, General Motors Corporation, so that said Debtor/Defendant has the same exact coverage for purposes of Plaintiff's civil lawsuit. There is no dispute that available insurance exists to satisfy any claim, and Movant agrees not to seek any excess judgment over and above any policy limits which may exist through said insurance coverages.

II. Cause Exists to Modify the Automatic Stay.

11. Movant seeks relief from the automatic stay imposed by Sec. 362 of Title 11 of the United States Code, for the purpose of allowing The State Court action to proceed with its determination of the relative duties of the parties under California Law. Specifically, Sec. 362(d)(1) provides that:

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"On request of a party in interest and after notice and a hearing. the court shall grant relief from the stay provided under subsection (a) of this section, such as by terminating, annulling, modifying or conditioning such stay . . . (1) for cause, including the lack of adequate protection of an interest in property of such party in interest. . .

- 12. The word "cause" is not defined by the Bankruptcy Code. As a result, the Bankruptcy Court must decide what constitutes "cause" to lift the automatic stay on a case by case basis. See, In re Rexene Products Company, 141 B.R. 574, 576 (Bankr. D.Del. 1992), citing In re Fernstrom Storage and Van Co., 938 F.2d 731, 735 (7th Cir. 1991). As per the legislative history concerning Sec. 362, "cause" may be established by a single factor such as "a desire to permit an action to proceed . . .in another tribunal", or "lack of any connection with or interference with the pending bankruptcy case." See In re Rexene, 141 B.R. at 576, citing H.R. Rep. No. 95-595, 95th Cong., 1st Sess., 343-344 (1977).
- 13. Relief from the automatic stay should be granted to allow proceedings to go forward in their place of origin, assuming the bankruptcy estate will not be prejudiced. Id. at 576.
- 14. The Court in <u>In re Rexene</u> stated that relief from the automatic stay should be granted when the party seeking such relief can show that:
 - the debtor or the debtor's estate will not be greatly prejudiced by continuing the civil suit;
 - b. The hardship to the movant by maintenance of the automatic stay considerable outweighs the hardship to the debtor; and
 - The movant has a reasonable chance of prevailing on the merits. C.
- 15. Additionally, cause for relief from the automatic stay to permit a pending litigation to continue to exist where the liquidation of the claim may be more conveniently determined in the court in which the claim is pending. See, e.g., 2 Collier on Bankruptcy Para. 362.07 (15th ed. 1995); see also First Jersey Nat'l Bank v. Brown, F.2d 564 (3d Cir. 1991). As stated in a Senate Report prepared during enactment of the Code, "[i]t will often be more appropriate to permit proceedings to continue in their place of origin, when no great prejudice to the bankruptcy court from many duties that may be handled elsewhere." See S. Rep. No. 989, 95th Cong., 2d Sess. 50 (1978), reprinted 1978 U.S.C.A.N. 5787, 5836.
 - 16. The above listed elements are met in the instant case for the following reasons:
 - Movant's injuries occurred in California; a.

19. Based on the foregoing, Movant would suffer irreparable harm if the stay is not modified to allow her to pursue her personal injury claim to its conclusion in State Court, especially because she would not be executing against Debtors or Debtors' estate to recover any award granted.

IV. Prosecution of the Action Against Debtors Would Not Burden Debtor's Estate.

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20. Debtor's estate will not be burdened by Movant's prosecution of the State Court
Action because Movant is willing to limit an award or judgment obtained to Defendant, General
Motors Corporation's insurance proceeds and not against any assets of Debtor or Debtor's

estate. Movant had requested, by her counsel, a consensual, stipulated order granting such relief, but Debtor's counsel has refused. Accordingly, Movant now has had to move for such relief.

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Perpetuation of the Automatic Stay Would Not Serve the Public Interest.

21. In addition to the public interest in allowing Debtor to reorganize its affairs, there is a substantial public interest in allowing injured parties access to the courts to obtain redress for their injuries. Balancing these conflicting policies under the facts presented here, the public interest would best be served by allowing continued prosecution of the coordinated actions. Movant is willing to forego all recovery against Debtor's estate and execute only against insurance available to Debtor.

VI. Abstention is Mandated.

22. This Court should therefore abstain from hearing the issues raised in the State Court Action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Sec, 1334. Specifically, Sec. 1334(c)(2) defines those situations in which a bankruptcy court must abstain as follows:

> Upon timely motion of a party in a proceeding based upon a State Law claim or State Law cause of action, related to a case under title 11 but not arising under title 11 or arising in a case under title 11, with respect to which an action could not have been commenced in a court of the United States absent jurisdiction under this section, the district court shall abstain from hearing such proceeding if an action is commenced. and can be timely adjudicated, in a State form of appropriate jurisdiction.

28 U.S.C. Sec. 1334(c)(2). See In the Matter of Total Tech. Svcs., 142 B.R. 96, 99 (Bankr. D.

Del. 1992); see, also Mona v. Citizens Bank & Trust Co., 143 B.R. 375, 381 (D. Md. 1992),

quoting Allen County Bank & Truck Co. v. Valvmatic Int'l Corp., B.R. 578, 583 (N.D. Ind.

1985) ("Section 1334(c)(2) provides for mandatory abstention in those cases where (1) the action

is only related to a bankruptcy; (2) the action could not be brought in federal court absent its

relatedness to a bankruptcy; and (3) the action can be timely adjudicated in State Court").

23. The State Action meets the criteria for abstention because:

a. This motion is "timely";

b. The State Court Action is "related to" the bankruptcy only because Movant's Claim, once determined in the State Court Action, would entitle Movant to recover against the proceeds of Debtor's insurance policy;

c. The action could not have been brought in federal court because of the absence of complete diversity, and the state law claims of negligence do not present federal questions of jurisdiction; and

- d. The action can be timely adjudicated where it has already been pending for several years and has been assigned to a judge for efficient case management.
- 24. Moreover, even if abstention were not required, it would be appropriate for this Court to abstain, utilizing its discretionary power to do so.
- 25. Section 1334(c) of Title 28 of the United States Code manifests a "clear Congressional policy . . .to give state law claimants a right to ave claims heard in State Court" where doing so will not adversely affect the conduct of the bankruptcy proceeding. <u>See</u>, <u>In re</u> <u>Castlerock Properties</u>, 781 F.2d 159, 163 (9th Cir. 1986).
- 26. The State Court Action concerning Movant is underway and this Court's abstention from those issues raised in that action will not adversely affect the conduct of this bankruptcy proceeding. There is no connection between this bankruptcy matter and the causes of action underlying the State Court Action. Based on the foregoing, the criteria for this Court to apply its discretionary power to abstain are met.
- 27. Whether on the grounds of comity or respect for the State Court, judicial efficiency and economy, or simply the desire to avoid duplicating the effort of the State Court, this Court should abstain. See, In the Matter of Continental Airlines, Inc., 156 B.R. 441 (Bankr. D. Del 1993) (discretionary abstention granted, in part, due to consideration of judicial economy and efficiency).

SANCTIONS

28. Because of Debtors' counsel's refusal to stipulate and refusal to diligently inquire as to the existing insurance, Movant requests the Court, sua sponte, pursuant to Rule 9011(c)(1)(b) grant Movant sanctions in the amount of \$1,650.00 as set forth in the Certificate of Conference filed herewith.

CONCLUSION

29. For the reasons stated above, Movant has established that cause exists to modify the automatic stay.

WHEREFORE, Movant requests that an Order be entered, granting the following: (i) relief from the automatic stay afforded by 11 U.S.C. Sec. 362 with respect to the State Court

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Action, and that this Court abstain from hearing the issues raised in the State Court Action, so as to permit the litigation to continue in the State Court and for such other and further relief as this Court deems just and appropriate; (ii) permission to proceed under applicable non-bankruptcy law to litigate her personal injury claims against Debtor to a final conclusion, but to enforce any judgment or award rendered against Debtor only against the Debtor's available insurance proceeds, and not any assets of Debtor or Debtor's estate-the stay to remain in effect with respect to enforcement of any judgment against Debtor or Debtor's estate property; (iii) that the Order be binding and effective despite any conversion in this bankruptcy case to a case under any other chapter of Title 11 of the United States Code; and (iv) sanctions in the amount of \$1,650.00 Dated: Van Nuys, California October 23, 2009 Respectfully submitted, Sharon Butler, as Guardian ad Litem of Brooke Alexis Love, a minor, Movant, in propria persona

(f)	whether any reservation of rights or controversy or coverage dispute exists between
	you and the insurance company; and

the name, ADDRESS, and telephone number of the custodian of the policy. (g)

RESPONSE TO FORM INTERROGATORY NO. 4.1:

Yes.

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- (a) Liability;
- (b) National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania;
- General Motors Corporation; (c)
- (d) RMCA 1606897;
- (e) Liability coverage up to \$300,000.00; excess coverage up to \$9,700,000.00
- (f) N/A;
- General Motors Corporation. (g)

FORM INTERROGATORY NO. 4.2:

Are you self-insured under any statute for the damages, claims, or actions that have arisen out of the INCIDENT? If so, specify the statute.

RESPONSE TO FORM INTERROGATORY NO. 4.2:

Ms. Purington refers Plaintiff to Response to Form Interrogatory No. 4.1. Beyond this, Ms. Purington objects on the grounds that this interrogatory is overly broad and seeks information that is neither relevant nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

FORM INTERROGATORY NO. 12.1:

State the name, ADDRESS, and telephone number of each individual:

- (a) who witnessed the INCIDENT or the events occurring immediately before or after the **INCIDENT**;
- who made any statement at the scene of the **INCIDENT**; (b)
- who heard any statements made about the INCIDENT by any individual at the (c) scene; and

VERIFICATION

I have read the foregoing RESPONSES OF DEFENDANT OLGA EDGAR PURINGTON TO PLAINTIFF'S FORM INTERROGATORIES, SET ONE, and know its contents.

I am a party to this action. I am informed and believe and on that ground allege that the matters stated in the forgoing document are true.

Executed on August 4, 2009, at Thousand Oaks, California.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Olga Edgar Puringto

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AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES ®

70 Pine Street, New York, NY 10270 (212) 770-7000

NATIONAL UNION FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF PITTSBURGH, PA

BUSINESS AUTO DECLARATIONS

M ONE

Named Insured & Maiiing Address GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION

300 RENAISSANCE CENTER DETROIT, MI 48265-3000

Producer's Name & Mailing Address AON RISK SERVICES, INC. OF MI 3000 TOWN CENTER #3000 POBOX 5156 SOUTHFIELD, MI 48086-5156

M OF BUSINESS:

DRPORATION | PARTNERSHIP | LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY | INDIVIDUAL | D.OTHER |

CY PERIOD: From 09/01/2007 to 09/01/2008 at 12:01 A.M. Standard Time at your mailing address. TURN FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PREMIUM, AND SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS OF THIS POLICY, WE AGREE WITH YOU TO PROVIDE

75,036

ım for Terrorism Coverage: \$1,306 Included In Policy Premium

DULE OF STATE TAXES, FEES AND SURCHARGES, IF APPLICABLE:*

ntucky chigan \$99.50 " Jersey \$1.00 \$7.00 4 York Kas \$2,720.00 \$553.00

Exes, Fees and Surcharges shown are in addition to the above referenced Policy Premium.

ISEMENTS ATTACHED TO THIS POLICY:

0 17 - Common Policy Conditions (IL 01 46 in Washington)

0 21 - Broad Form Nuclear Exclusion (Not Applicable in New York)

TACHED FORMS SCHEDULE

HESE DECLARATIONS AND THE COMMON POLICY DECLARATIONS, IF APPLICABLE, TOGETHER WITH THE COMMON POLICY VDITIONS, COVERAGE FORMS, AND FORMS AND ENDORSEMENTS IF ANY ISSUED TO FORM A PART THEREOF COMPLETE THE

Date Issued: 10/26/2007

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policy provides only those coverages where a charge is shown in the premium column below. Each of these coverages will apply only to those solvered "autos". "Autos" are shown as covered "autos" for a particular coverage by the entry of one or more of the symbols from the

COVERAGES	COVERED AUTOS	LIMIT					
		COVIII	PREMIUM				
LITY]						
ONAL INJURY PROTECTION uivalent No-fault Coverage)	5	\$ 300,000 SEPARATELY STATED IN EACH PERSONAL INJURY PROTECTION ENDORSEMENT MINUS DEDUCTIONS FOR	\$ 75,030				
D PERSONAL INJURY ECTION (or equivalent added ult Coverage)		DEDUCTIBLE FOR EACH ACCIDENT	\$INCLUDED				
RTY PROTECTION ANCE (Michigan only) MEDICAL PAYMENTS		SEPARATELY STATED IN THE PROPERTY PROTECTION INSURANCE ENDORSEMENT MINUS \$ DEDUCTIBLE FOR EACH ACCIDENT.	\$				
AL EXPENSE AND INCOME BENEFITS (Virginia only)		SEPARATELY STATED IN EACH MESSION	\$				
URED MOTORISTS	2		\$				
INSURED MOTORISTS not included in Uninsured ts Coverage)	2	SEPARATELY STATED IN EACH UNINSURED MOTORISTS ENDORSEMENT SEPARATELY STATED IN EACH UNDERINSURED MOTORISTS ENDORSEMENT	\$INCLUDED \$INCLUDED				
AL DAMAGE EHENSIVE COVERAGE		"ACTUAL" \$ DEDICTOR TO THE					
AL DAMAGE ED CAUSES OF LOSS AGE		VALUE OR LIGHTNING. See ITEM FOUR For Hired Or Borrowed "Autos". COST OF \$25 DEDUCTIBLE FOR EACH COVERED AUTO FOR LOSS REPAIR, CAUSED BY MICOURE SEE	S				
AL DAMAGE ON COVERAGE		WHICHEVER Hired Or Borrowed "Autos".	5				
AL DAMAGE TOWING		MINUS See ITEM FOUR For Hired Or Borrowed "Autos". For Each Disablement Of A D.:	\$				
		For Each Disablement Of A Private Passenger "Auto".	\$				
*TI:		PREMIUM FOR ENDORSEMENTS	\$INCLUDED				
*This policy may be subje	ct to final audit.	EDITIVIATED TOTAL DOCUMENT	\$ 75.036				

THREE SCHEDULE OF COVERED AUTOS YOU OWN

DESCRIPTION Year, Model, Trade Name, Body Type Serial Number (s) Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) PER SCHEDULE ON FILE WITH COMPANY							PURCHASED Original Actual		TERRITORY			
									Actual Cost & NEW (N) USED (U)	. Town & State Where The Covered Auto Will Be Principally Garaged		
				CLASSIFIC	CATION							
Radius Of Operation	Business Use S = service R = retail C = commercial	Size GVW, GCW Or Vehicle Seating Capacity	Age Group	Primary Rating Factor Liab. Phy.		Secondary Rating Factor	Code	EXCE To You	EXCEPT For Towing, All Physical Damage Loss Is Payal To You And The Loss Payee Named Below As Interests I Appear At the Time Of The Loss.			
PER SCH	EDULE ON	FILE W	TH C	OMPAN	Dam.					·		

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I am employed in Los Angeles County. My business address is 5990 Sepulveda Boulevard, Suite #330, Van Nuys, California 91411-2523. I am over the age of 18 years and am not a party to this cause.

On October 23, 2009, I served the following documents:

MOTION OF CREDITOR BROOKE ALEXIS LOVE, A MINOR, BY AND THROUGH HER GUARDIAN AD LITEM, SHARON BUTLER, FOR RELIEF FROM THE AUTOMATIC STAY TO ALLOW THE CONTINUED PURSUIT OF AN INSURED PERSONAL INJURY ACTION AND REQUEST FOR RULE 9011 SANCTIONS; [CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE AND DECLARATION OF SUZANNE E. RAND-LEWIS FILED CONCURRENTLY HEREWITH]

on:

Brianna N.Benfield Esq. Joseph H. Smolinsky, Esq. Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP 767 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10153 Monica J. Frascona, Esq. Dykema Gossett LLP 333 South Grand Avenue, Suite 2100 Los Angeles, California 90071

[X]	BY MAIL- I placed such envelope/s for collection and mailing on this date following ordinary business practices at Van Nuys, California. The envelope was mailed with postage thereon fully prepaid.
Γ]	BY PERSONAL SERVICE-I delivered such envelope by hand to said party at,
	at m. o'clock.
[]	BY OVERNITE EXPRESS MAIL- I placed such envelope/s for collection and Overnite Express mail on this date following ordinary business practices directed to the addresses above.
[]	BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION- I caused to be served by facsimile transmission at the number(s) listed above:
[]	STATE I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
[X]	FEDERAL: I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at whose direction the service was made.
	Executed on October 23, 2009, at Van Nuys, California

Chris Meyer